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SHULTZ FOCUSING ON A NEW POLICY FOR MIDDLE EAST

KISSINGER ADVICE SOUGHT

Envoys of Egypt and Israel Are Called In — Special Trip by Americans Considered

By BERNARD GWERTZMAN
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 17 — Secretary of State George P. Shultz called in the Israeli and Egyptian Ambassadors today and met all afternoon with Henry A. Kissinger and other experts in an effort to begin to develop a new, longer-range policy for the Middle East, State Department officials said.

An official said it was possible that as a result of today's sessions and others that Mr. Shultz plans in coming days, he may decide to ask Mr. Kissinger, a former Secretary of State with expertise in Middle East diplomacy, or other prominent Americans to undertake a special mission to the area. But nothing has been set, the official said.

Mr. Shultz "has the strong sense that patterns are shifting in the Middle East and we'd be pretty dumb if we got stuck in the day-to-day muddle over Lebanon and watched the chances drift by," the official said.

[In Beirut, a senior Lebanese Government official said President Elias Sarkis had reacted coolly to an offer by the Palestine Liberation Organization to move its fighters to northern Lebanon. Page 12.]

Kissinger's Advice Sought

The decision by Mr. Shultz to seek Mr. Kissinger's advice about the Middle East in such a highly visible way was described by an aide as a sign that Mr. Shultz intends to take much more advantage of Mr. Kissinger's experience than did his predecessor as Secretary of State, Alexander M. Haig Jr.

Mr. Shultz has said in the past that he admired Mr. Kissinger's skills in foreign affairs, having served with him under President Nixon. In his current book of memoirs, Mr. Kissinger said that "if I could choose one American to whom I would entrust the nation's fate in a crisis, it would be George Shultz."

The new Secretary, who was sworn in Friday, devoted his first full day in office almost entirely to the Middle East.

Meets With Israeli and Egyptian

Mr. Shultz met this morning for more than half an hour with Moshe Arens, Israel's Ambassador to the United States, and had a session planned later today with Dr. Ashraf Ghorbal, Egypt's Ambassador.

These were the first ambassadors he has met with since taking office, and the meetings were meant to convey the importance attached to the Middle East and the United States' American ties with its Camp David partners, officials said. The State Department said later that it had received a formal reply from Israel over allegations it had used cluster bombs in Lebanon, in violation of an agreement governing their use. Officials would not disclose what the reply said. [Page 10.]

In an another Middle East development, an aide said Mr. Shultz had recommended that President Reagan name Kenneth W. Dam, a long-time Shultz colleague, to the No. 2 job at the State Department, Deputy Secretary, to replace Walter J. Stoessel Jr., who is expected to retire this year. Mr. Dam, provost at the University of Chicago, worked with Mr. Shultz in the Office of Management and Budget and in the Treasury Department when Mr. Shultz headed those agencies in the Nixon Administration.

According to an Israeli diplomat, Mr. Shultz told Mr. Arens that he was the first ambassador invited by him to the State Department because he wanted to emphasize President Reagan's continuing commitment to Israel's security. The diplomat said Mr. Shultz, as he did in his remarks at his swearing-in, said that despite the problems in the Middle East caused by the Lebanese crisis and the Iraq-Iran war, there were opportunities for achieving a breakthrough and that he intended to try to take advantage of them.

Mr. Shultz visited Israel and other Middle Eastern countries a few years ago with Irving S. Shapiro, then the chief executive officer of E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company. According to the Israeli diplomat, Mr. Shultz told Mr. Arens that he had gone by car from Amman, Jordan, to Jerusalem, and

Mr. Shapiro, who is now a lawyer in Wilmington, Del., having retired from Du Pont last year, was one of the close friends of Mr. Shultz who was invited to take part in the all-afternoon "brainstorming session" with Mr. Kissinger and others today. Mr. Shapiro, who was once asked by President Carter to serve as Treasury Secretary, was deeply involved as president of the Business Rountable in helping work out legislation in 1976-77 involving American companies that engaged in any boycott of Israel because of Arab pressure.

San Francisco Banker Takes Part

Another former associate at the session was Laurence H. Silberman, a San Francisco banker, who served with Mr. Shultz when he was Secretary of Labor for President Nixon and later was Ambassador to Yugoslavia.

Mr. Silberman, a Republican, has long been regarded as a candidate for high position in the Reagan Administration.

In addition to Mr. Kissinger, Mr. Shapiro and Mr. Silberman, officials said, these were the others who took part in the session that began with lunch and lasted through dinner:

Deputy Secretary Stoessel; Lawrence S. Eagleburger, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs; Nicholas A. Veliotes, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs; Paul D. Wolfowitz, Director of Policy Planning for the State Department; Richard Fairbanks, who had been Mr. Haig's special assistant on Middle East diplomacy; Robert C. McFarlane, deputy director of the National Security Council, and Robert C. Ames, the chief specialist on the Middle East for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mr. Shultz, in his confirmation hearings before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, placed priority on the Middle East and in particular on resolving the Palestinian issue. He said, however, that he had no specific plan in mind.

Wants to Study Issue

His aides said Mr. Shultz, who recognizes that he has much to learn about the Middle East and other areas, wants to study the question in depth before making any major recommendations.

"He wants to first put things in an intellectual context," one official said.

The official said Mr. Shultz wants to "get an appreciation of the present situation and what are the realistic possibilities."

"He knows this is a crucial time for the region," the official said, "but he doesn't want to become stuck with a desk-officer mentality, becoming so engrossed in day-to-day decisions that the longer-range possibilities are lost."

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